

- c) a fragment of a protein as defined in a) or b) above which is at least 10 amino acids long.

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cont'd

5. Nucleic acid as claimed in [any one of claims 1 to 4] claim 1 which comprises the sequence set out in Figure 1 or a fragment thereof which is at least 30 bases long.

6. Nucleic acid, as claimed in [any one of claims 1 to 5] claim 1 in combination with one or more further nucleic acid sequence which is dehiscence-zone expressed.

7. Nucleic acid which is antisense to nucleic acid as claimed in [any one of claims 1 to 6] claim 1.

8. Nucleic acid as claimed in [any one of claims 1 to 7] claim 1 including a promoter or other regulatory sequence which controls expression of the nucleic acid.

9. Nucleic acid which is the naturally occurring promoter or other regulatory sequence which controls expression of nucleic acid as claimed in [any one of claims 1 to 8] claim 1.

10. Nucleic acid as claimed in [any one of claims 1 to 9] claim 1 which is in the form of a vector.

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Subc3 13. A process for obtaining a cell [as claimed in claim 11 or claim 12] comprising introducing nucleic acid as claimed in [any one of claims 1 to 10] claim 1 into said cell.

A² Subc4 14. A plant or a part thereof comprising a cell as claimed in [claim 11 or] claim 12.

A² Subc4 15. Propagating material or a seed comprising a cell as claimed in [claim 11 or] claim 12.

A² Subc4 16. A process for obtaining a plant or plant part [as claimed in claim 14 or claim 15] comprising obtaining a cell as claimed in claim 11 and growth thereof [or obtaining a plant, plant part, or propagating material as claimed in claim 14 or claim 15 and growth thereof].

A³ 18. A protein as claimed in claim 17 which:

- a) comprises the amino acid sequence shown in Figure 1 or;
- b) has one or more amino acid deletions, insertions or substitutions relative to a protein as defined in a) above, and has at least 40% amino acid sequence identity therewith; or
- c) a fragment of a protein as defined in a) or b) above which is at least 10 amino acids long.

A³ 19. A plant as claimed in claim 17 [or claim 18] which is isolated or recombinant.

A⁴ 21. A process [as claimed in claim 20] for regulating or controlling dehiscence in a plant or plant part which comprises obtaining a plant cell as claimed in [claim 21 or part of a plant as claimed in claim 14] claim 12 and deriving a plant therefrom.

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22. A process for regulating or controlling dehiscence in a plant or plant part [as claimed in claim 20] which comprises obtaining propagating material or a seed as claimed in claim 15 and deriving a plant therefrom.

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24. A process for controlling or regulating plant dehiscence comprising introducing the [Use of] nucleic acid as claimed in [any one of claims 1 to 10] claim 1 [in the control/regulation of plant dehiscence] into a cell, tissue, plant part thereof or propagating material and expressing said nucleic acid.

subcs5 > 25. [Use of nucleic] Nucleic acid as claimed in [any one of claims 1 to 10 as] claim 4 which is a probe.

26. A process for producing a cell, tissue, plant part thereof or propagating material comprising introducing the [Use of] nucleic acid as claimed in [any one claims 1 to 10] claim 1 into a cell, tissue, plant part thereof or propagating material and causing growth of said cell, tissue, plant part thereof or propagating material [in the production of a cell, tissue, plant part thereof or propagating material].

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29. [Use of a] A protein as claimed in [any one of claims 17 to 19] claim 18 which is [as] a probe.